



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



Washington Fish and Wildlife Office
510 Desmond Dr. SE, Suite 102
Lacey, Washington 98503

WSDOT
Olympic Region

MAY 26 2010

MAY 20 2010

In Reply Refer To:
13410-2010-F-0030

*Environmental and
Hydraulic Services*

Michelle Walker
Department of the Army
Seattle District, Corps of Engineers
ATTN: Sandra Manning
P.O. Box 3755
Seattle, Washington 98124-3755

Dear Ms. Walker:

On October 20, 2009, we received your Biological Evaluation, Memorandum for the Services, and request for formal consultation on the State Route 162, Puyallup River Bridge (162/006) Replacement in Pierce County, Washington. On February 4, 2010, we provided comments via an electronic message from Ryan McReynolds, to your office and the Washington State Department of Transportation, identifying additional information needs in support of consultation. On May 7, 2010, we received a written response to our request for additional information. The information needs identified on February 4, 2010, are essential to understanding the setting, context, and potential effects of the action.

With receipt of the additional information we now have the information required to initiate formal consultation and we are doing so as of May 7, 2010. Please refer to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) Reference No. 13410-2010-F-0030 in future correspondence on this consultation.

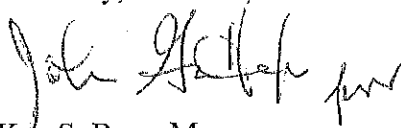
Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act specifies that the Service has up to 90 calendar days to conclude formal consultation and an additional 45 calendar days to prepare a Biological Opinion, unless an extension is mutually agreed upon. However, should the project design be changed or

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new information is provided during this 135-day time period, the Service may suspend formal consultation until the new information is evaluated. As of now, we expect to provide you with a Biological Opinion no later than September 22, 2010.

If you have any questions about this letter or your responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended), please contact Ryan McReynolds at (360) 753-6047 or Emily Teachout at (360) 753-9583 of this office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken S. Berg", followed by a small flourish.

Ken S. Berg, Manager
Washington Fish and Wildlife Office

cc:

USACE, Seattle, WA (M. Lamprecht)

WSDOT, Olympia, WA (C. Ward)

WSDOT - ESO, Olympia, WA (M. Carey)